
DATE: Monday, March 2, 2020
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: Urbana City Council Chambers, 400 S. Vine St, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in Special Session Monday March 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Urbana City Building.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: City Council Members (CM) Maryalice Wu (Ward 1), Eric Jakobsson (Ward 2), Shirese Hursey (Ward 3), Bill Brown (Ward 4), Dennis Roberts (Ward 5), Jared Miller (Ward 7), Diane Wolfe Marlin (Mayor), Charles A. Smyth (City Clerk)

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT VIA TELECONFERENCE:

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: Vacant (Ward 6)

STAFF PRESENT: Carol Mitten, James Simon, Lorrie Pearson, Elizabeth Hannan, Bryant Seraphin, Charles Lauss, Sheila Dodd, Sanford Hess, Rachel Storm

OTHERS PRESENT: Paula McCarty, Clare Conway, Andrea Ruedi

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

There being a quorum present, Mayor Marlin called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7:01 p.m.

II. PUBLIC INPUT

Rachel Storm, Public Arts and Culture Coordinator, provided background and introduction to a mayoral proclamation for Women's History Month. She briefly described the many events being coordinated with area non-profits and community groups in honor of History Month. She introduced Paula McCarty, current City of Urbana artist of the corridor, who described her digital to oil paintings of women who painted (womenwhopainted.com) and the associated long term project that it has become. Ms. Storm then introduced Clare Conway, Univ. of Illinois Women's Resources Center, who is coordinating a calendar of events. Ms. Conway stated that she had physical copies of the calendar of events related to Women's History Month and highlighted an upcoming awards ceremony. Ms. Storm then introduced for recognition members of the local community in the audience who have contributed to efforts in education, social justice, gender equity, non-profit, and other local activities. These individuals included Dr. Evelyn Underwood, Doris McGee, Patricia Avery, Erin Tarr, Patricia León, Quecán, Susan Ogwal, Ja'Naea Modest, Isis Rose, June Clark Eubanks, Sarah Colome, Janice Walker, Elderess Melinda Carr, and Dionne Liscumb. She then asked all women in the room to stand for recognition. Ms. Storm then invited all to come forward to stand with Mayor Marlin as Mayor Marlin read the proclamation in honor of Women's History Month.

III. MAYORAL STAFF APPOINTMENTS

- a. Human Resources and Finance Director/CFO, Elizabeth Hannan
- b. Senior Analyst for Integrated Strategy Development, Andrea Ruedi

Mayor Marlin spoke to her appointment of Elizabeth Hannan as Human Resources and Finance Director/CFO. She noted the departure of Todd Rent and subsequent consolidation of the Human Resources Department with the Finance Department as the Human Resources and Finance Department. She noted Ms. Hannan's career with the City of Champaign and her work as Urbana's Finance Director as well as additional staff changes and reallocations related to the consolidation. She thanked Ms. Hannan for her commitment to the city. Mayor Marlin also noted several tasks to be addressed by Ms. Hannan in her expanded role.

Mayor Marlin then provided background to the appointment of Andrea Ruedi as Senior Analyst for a limited term appointment leading efforts to rewrite the City's Comprehensive Plan reporting to City Administrator Mitten. Mayor Marlin stated that rewriting the plan is the next building block in our "Foundation for the Future". Mayor Marlin noted that the next Comprehensive Plan will be inclusive in every way, including input from all stakeholders, reflect policy initiatives, and will include achievable strategies.

City Administrator Mitten provided her thoughts on the Comprehensive Plan process. Ms. Mitten noted use of all in house staff and a five year process. She described a process that would be additive to current city resources, done by an in house team dedicated to the effort supported by some selective outside consulting. She described a community based process that relies on local and national expertise impacting land use and economic development taking into account sustainability, financial vitality, climate change, housing affordability and public safety. The process will also include staff expertise and build on efforts related to Census outreach as well as use different methods and different formats. Work on the plan will begin this summer with Ms. Andrea Ruedi beginning now to learn aspects of the city.

Ms. Andrea Ruedi noted city activities laying the city's foundation for the future. She looks forward to the challenge of developing the Comprehensive Plan noting her background with developing plans at the Univ. of Illinois Technology Park and Champaign County. She noted requirements for inclusivity, for a plan that can be implemented with specific actions that can be achieved, and financially feasible. She spoke to developing relationships, collaboration, communication, and transparency and looks forward to joining the City of Urbana.

Questions and discussion followed. CM Brown, noting that the Comprehensive Plan is not in the Mayor-Council goals, asked why this is a rewrite and not an update. City Administrator Mitten responded by describing the process as a rewrite that would be inclusive, would involve extensive outreach, include policy objectives, including an economic development plan and strategy. Community Development Director Pearson noted that the 2005 Comprehensive Plan was prior to the Great Recession and there are now new ways of thinking particularly with respect to changes in the economy. Mayor Marlin added that climate change should be a main theme and issues of housing density considered. She noted wanting to engage younger residents in developing the plan. Ms. Pearson noted that various city plans would be incorporated and built off of as appropriate and relevant. In response to CM Miller, Ms. Pearson said that council input would be woven into the process and Mayor Marlin asked council to help with outreach.

In response to CM Roberts concerning achievable goals, Ms. Mitten indicated that she expects this to be an iterative, evolving process involving feedback and reconciling conflicting input recognizing the need to provide flexibility and guidance for the future. CM Roberts commented on economic uncertainties and that feasibility would be a challenge. Ms. Mitten added the desired outcome would include not just land use and density but include something expressive about who we are, no matter what the economy is doing. She emphasized the need to engage the community. Council Members Roberts and Jakobsson commented on the city's uniqueness and viewpoint, tremendous heterogeneity, and diverse communities. CM Miller complemented Ms. Ruedi thanking her for seeking the challenge. Ms. Ruedi replied by stating that she is looking forward to working with the council and staff.

Ms. Pearson noted that Lily Wilcock will be the planner dedicated to the project and that her position would be filled. In response to CM Wu, City Administrator Mitten described the financial bottom line impacts of various consolidations and staff changes, including a budget amendment later in tonight's meeting.

CM Miller moved the appointment of Elizabeth Hannan as HR and Finance Director/CFO and Andrea Ruedi as Senior Analyst for Integrated Strategy Development. The motion was seconded by CM Roberts. With no further discussion, the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the council, Mayor Marlin adjourned the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Charles A. Smyth

City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded with website link (viewable on demand):

<https://www.urbanaininois.us/node/8507>

This meeting was broadcast on cable television (UPTV) and streamed live:

<http://urbanaininois.us/upty>

Minutes Approved: March 9, 2020